

# Coconino County Proclamation

## *Designating April 2023 As Sexual Assault Awareness Month*

**WHEREAS**, sexual violence is an umbrella term that includes any type of unwanted sexual contact– including sexual assault, harassment, abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking, nonconsensual image sharing, words and actions of a sexual nature against a person’s will and without consent; and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which officially began being observed nationally 22 years ago, is intended to raise public awareness to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center has communicated that the theme of Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2023 is “Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity,” as drawing connections recognizes that it will take ending all forms of oppression to end sexual harassment, assault, and abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 1 in 4 non-Hispanic Black women (29%) in the United States were raped in their lifetime, more than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native Women (84%) have experienced violence in their lifetime, 1 in 3 Hispanic women (34.8%) reported unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime, 32.9% of adults with intellectual disabilities have experienced sexual violence and 47% of all transgender people have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, addressing the social exclusion, unequal access to resources, disproportionate exposure to harm, and unjust prejudice that people face, will help create change if we take time to hear, understand, and recognize one another; and

**WHEREAS**, in Coconino County in 2022, Victim Witness Services worked with 105 adult survivors of sexual assault and 76 survivors of child sexual abuse and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, Coconino County encourages all community members to work together to promote education about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that to bring awareness to sexual assault, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors recognizes **April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month**.

*Signed and sealed this 4th day of April 2023.*  
**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

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District 1 Supervisor

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District 4 Supervisor

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District 2 Supervisor

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District 5 Supervisor

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